

May 11, 2018

Chairman Ajit Pai  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Ajit Pai:

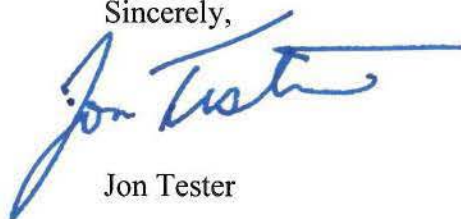
I write today regarding concerns about a new burdensome fee on rural commercial broadcast businesses. I appreciate the FCC's interest in surveying the C Band Satellite service for increased mobile broadband data services. I would encourage you to work with commercial broadcast businesses to find a reasonable way to protect rural stations from having to pay the filing fee associated with the registration process. A fee of \$435 will have a real impact on stations that do business in rural states like Montana.

The FCC recently issued a public notice regarding a 90-day window encouraging all commercial broadcast services delivered through the C Band Satellite service to register their downlinks. It is my understanding that this registration usually requires a frequency coordination study that costs \$1,500. I have heard concerns that while this larger fee has been waived, it is possible the FCC will ask for payment at a later date. I strongly oppose such a decision. Additionally, Montanans have contacted me with concerns over the \$435 filing fee. These rural businesses are not directly benefitting from the FCC's review of the C Band Satellite service making this fee tougher to accept. I would encourage you to find a way to hold these rural businesses harmless during your review.

I supported your nomination in large part because of your understanding of the challenges of doing business in rural America. These television, radio and cable stations provide important services to their communities and support jobs in rural towns all across the country.

Thank you to your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

June 29, 2018

The Honorable Jon Tester  
United States Senate  
311 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Tester:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of protecting broadcast and cable earth stations as we increase terrestrial use of the 3.7-4.2 GHz band, commonly called the C-band. As you know, such use of the C-band will be critical to our nation's 5G efforts and will ensure widespread deployment of high-speed broadband services to rural America. We have to make every effort to close the digital divide, and getting C-band policy right is critical to that goal.

As you know, Congress established the \$435 application fee that earth stations now pay to register with the Commission. And we must move forward with the registration process. Without information about existing users, the FCC will have no way to protect rural broadcasters and cable operators that currently use earth stations to access programming.

At the same time, I firmly believe that we must be accommodating of those operating in smaller markets. That's why the Commission has repeatedly taken steps to reduce the costs of registration for small broadcasters and cable operators. For instance, Commission staff waived the costly engineering studies normally required of registrants, allowed filers to consolidate their applications to reduce application fees, and doubled the length of time for broadcasters and cable operators to register. Taken together, our registration process strikes the appropriate balance of maximizing the FCC's insight into the marketplace while minimizing regulatory burdens on existing users.

Again, our ultimate goal is to free up spectrum for more high-speed broadband access throughout our country, and especially in rural America. I believe that rural consumers have waited long enough for high-speed broadband, and that as a nation, we cannot afford to forfeit global leadership in 5G. I hope you agree.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ajit V. Pai".

Ajit V. Pai